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SENATE BILL 472

46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2003

INTRODUCED BY

Mark Boitano

AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION; CHANGING THE GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS TO
PROVIDE FOR A FAMILY COMMUNICATIONS REQUIREMENT.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. Section 22-2-8.4 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1986,
Chapter 33, Section 5, as amended by Laws 2001, Chapter 257,
Section 1 and by Laws 2001, Chapter 276, Section 1) is amended
to read:

"22-2-8.4. GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS. --

A. At the end of the eighth grade or during the
ninth grade, each student shall prepare an individual program
of study for grades nine through twelve. The program of study
shall be signed by a student's parent or guardian.

B. Beginning with students entering the ninth grade
in the 1986-87 school year, successful completion of a minimum

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

1 of twenty-three units shall be required for graduation. These
2 units shall be as follows:

3 (1) four units in English, with major emphasis
4 on grammar and literature;

5 (2) three units in mathematics;

6 (3) two units in science, one of which shall
7 have a laboratory component;

8 (4) three units in social science, which shall
9 include United States history and geography, world history and
10 geography, and government and economics;

11 (5) one unit in physical ~~[fitness]~~ education;

12 (6) one unit in ~~[communication skills, with~~
13 ~~major emphasis on writing and speaking, which may include a~~
14 ~~language other than English]~~ family communications; and

15 (7) nine elective units. Only the following
16 elective units shall be counted toward meeting the requirements
17 for graduation: fine arts, i. e., music, band, chorus and art;
18 practical arts; physical education; languages other than
19 English; speech; drama; vocational education; mathematics;
20 science; English; ~~[R. O. T. C.]~~ reserve officers' training corps;
21 social science; computer science; health education; American
22 sign language; and other electives approved by the state board.

23 With the approval of the local school board, participation
24 on an athletic team or in an athletic sport during the school
25 day may count toward fulfillment of the physical education

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[bracketed material] = delete

1 required unit.

2 C. Final examinations shall be administered to all
3 students in all classes offered for credit.

4 D. No student shall receive a high school diploma
5 who has not passed a state graduation examination in the
6 subject areas of reading, English, math, writing, science and
7 social science. Beginning with the 1996-97 school year, the
8 state graduation examinations on social science shall include a
9 section on the constitution of the United States and the
10 constitution of New Mexico. If a student exits from the school
11 system at the end of grade twelve without having passed a state
12 graduation examination, he shall receive an appropriate state
13 certificate indicating the number of credits earned and the
14 grade completed. If within five years after a student exits
15 from the school system he takes and passes the state graduation
16 examination, he may receive a high school diploma.

17 E. The state board may establish a policy to
18 provide for administrative interpretations to clarify
19 curricular and testing provisions of the Public School Code."